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**Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**WIFA Chairman Announces Grant for  
Mount Lemmon Water Co-op Technical Assistance**

PHOENIX (July 30, 2003) Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA) Chairman Steve Owens today announced Board's approval of a \$35,000 technical assistance grant to Mount Lemmon Cooperative Water Co, Inc.

The cooperative will use the WIFA grant to pay for costs associated with forming and implementing a domestic water improvement district to assume responsibility over drinking water facilities in the Mount Lemmon area.

Officials say forming the district will help to quickly rehabilitate drinking water facilities damaged by the recent Aspen Fire.

"I am very pleased that WIFA is in a position to extend this special technical assistance grant to the Mount Lemmon Water Co-op," said Owens, who is also Director of the Environmental Quality Department. "This grant will help the people of Summerhaven get back on their feet after this devastating fire."

"Forming a water improvement district will provide a definite financial advantage to Mount Lemmon," Owens said. "As a special district, they will be able to access very low-interest construction loans and grants at a tremendous cost savings to system users."

**Background**

WIFA is an independent state agency that administers the Clean Water Revolving Fund for wastewater and water reclamation construction projects. It also administers the Drinking Water Revolving Fund for drinking water construction projects.

Both funds get their money from federal and state sources. Interest rates are typically below market rates.

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